

RANJAN MANORANJAN

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished Ohioan, Ranjan Manoranjan. A native of Sri Lanka, Mr. Manoranjan is a tireless advocate of humanitarian efforts here in his adopted country and throughout the world.

In July, Mr. Manoranjan was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which honors American citizens who through struggle and sacrifice help build our Nation while preserving their own cultural identity.

Past Ellis Island recipients include Bill Clinton, Rosa Parks, and Colin Powell. Co-founder of the International Relief Foundation, Mr. Manoranjan has raised millions of dollars to combat global poverty including significant support for tsunami relief.

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Mr. Manoranjan's commitment to social and economic justice is evidenced in a letter I received from his business partner of 18 years.

Nanda Nair wrote, "He has been an example to me for giving back to the community, mentoring others, and preserving ancestral ties while celebrating America's tradition as the land of opportunity and self-improvement."

HIDDEN HATE CRIMES BILL

(Mr. GOHMERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we just passed a hate crimes bill. There is no Federal nexus, not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the Constitution, but then again we have a Supreme Court that often does not recognize the Constitution as written. It rewrites it to suit its own whims.

As a former judge, I was a tough sentencer when that came about, but I am telling you, 10 years from now, when your preacher or even a Muslim leader says something about the Bible or the Koran or something saying that this sexual preference is wrong and they get arrested, then there will be people in this body that say, you know what, maybe I should have voted against that amendment.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SMART SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, a friend of mine has sent me a short and moving poem; and I want to share it tonight.

She writes, "I weep for my country. We seem to have completely lost our way. I want the government to be as generous as private people are. I want my government to do as well as WalMart is doing. I weep for my country. I want black faces to count as much as mine. I need hope, not statistics, platitudes and phony, staged play-acting. I weep for my country. We need a Marshall Plan. We need a New Deal. We need leaders in Congress to start talking about conservation, pulling together, car pooling, not opening the Alaskan oil fields. Oh, God, how I weep for my country."

I was moved by my friend's words, and I am committed to turning her words into action. Tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock I will be convening a hearing to discuss concrete strategies for ending the war in Iraq. We will hear from Middle East experts, military leaders, and others as they offer their ideas for how we can bring our troops home and move toward a peaceful but constructive role in the rebuilding of Iraqi society.

This morning brought news of a deadly series of bombings in Iraq, killing American soldiers and Iraqi civilians, more than 150 people in all, making it one of the deadliest days of this horrific war.

Is this what the march of freedom looks like? Is this what Vice President CHENEY meant when he said the insurgency was in its last throes?

It is more clear than ever that the American military presence is inspiring terrorist insurgents rather than defeating them. Al Qaeda has taken credit for this wave of violence and al Qaeda was not even a factor in Iraq before the U.S.-led occupation began.

The American people understand this. Nearly two-thirds of them give the President poor marks on his handling of Iraq. They are desperate to hear alternatives to the administration's disastrous policy. That is why I have organized this hearing tomorrow, to give voice to a widely held conviction, to spark a national debate, to demonstrate that many of us do not want to just speak out against the war. We want to discuss pragmatic, nuts-and-bolts solutions, in fact, a road map to our very disengagement.

That discussion should eventually go beyond Iraq to include a complete reassessment of our national security priorities. It is time to end the reflexive impulse of using military force to solve our international conflict. It has, by the way, the appearance of strength, but, as Iraq has shown us, it often undermines our national security, rather than enhancing it.

I have proposed a new approach. It is called SMART Security. It stands for Sensible, Multi-lateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART is based on the belief that war should be an ab-

solute last resort, to be undertaken only under the most extreme circumstances. But that does not mean SMART is not serious and smart about protecting America. It is vigilant about fighting terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, but it does so with stronger multi-lateral alliance, improved intelligence capabilities, vigorous inspection regimes, and aggressive diplomacy.

SMART would shuffle our national security budget. No more billions thrown at outdated Cold War weapons programs. That money would instead be invested in energy independence and other efforts that truly are relevant to the modern security threats that we face.

SMART also includes an ambitious international development agenda to help address the root causes of terrorism, democracy building, education for women and girls, addressing resources scarcity. These are key ingredients to building stable societies in Iraq and elsewhere.

It is my hope and belief that the grievous mistakes we made in Iraq will lead us to this new, smarter national security policy. SMART Security protects America by relying on the very best of American values: our capacity for global leadership, our dedication to peace and freedom, and our compassion for the people of the world.

GREAT AMERICAN RICE TRADE IN TROUBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise September as National Rice Month and honor those who grow it, process it, transport it, and all those who bring it to the dinner tables of America and the rest of the world.

National Rice Month was established in 1991 when both Houses of Congress agreed and the President of the United States sought to increase awareness of rice and recognize the contribution made by the U.S. rice industry to America's economy. National Rice Month celebrations will take place all across America this month in grocery stores, restaurants, schools, in festivals in many rice-growing communities, including the 36th Annual Texas Rice Festival just outside my district in Winnie, Texas.

Rice is an important part of American history and heritage. It has been grown in North America since 1696, when an improved variety of rice, reportedly from Madagascar, was grown on the Carolina coast. Early Americans recognized the promise of this crop throughout the world; and by 1726 the port of Charleston, South Carolina, was a major rice port in the United States.

As America earned independence, rice was growing as one of our largest exports. Over the years, rice became